

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

Mayor Healy Hosts Second Sustainable Cities Conference Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. to Give Keynote Address

JERSEY CITY -- **Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy** and members of the Municipal Council will host Jersey City's Second Sustainable Cities Conference, from **8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday, March 9th, 2009**, at the **Liberty Science Center, Liberty State Park, 222 Jersey City Blvd.**

Delivering the Keynote Address is **Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.**, founder and President of the Waterkeeper Alliance. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. will focus on the virtues of building sustainable communities. Known for his environmental work, Mr. Kennedy also serves as the Chief Prosecuting Attorney for the Hudson Riverkeeper and as a Clinical Professor and Supervising Attorney at Pace University School of Law's Environmental Litigation Clinic. His New York City Watershed Agreement is regarded as an international model in stakeholder consensus negotiations and sustainable development.

"More than ever, people are taking a greater interest in protecting the environment and many businesses and manufacturers are responding," said **Mayor Healy**. "In building partnerships, we are making a commitment to changing behavior in conserving our resources whether it's through saving energy, recycling, promoting carpooling and public transportation, or by educating others on home energy conservation."

Kennedy's keynote speech will be followed by a panel of experts from the areas of government, sustainability and planning. The panelists will be taking questions from the audience. This conference promises to be informative, as well as a forum to expand upon the important discussion of how we can achieve sustainable communities.

Earlier this year, Mayor Healy introduced and the City Council adopted four green ordinances – one of the most progressive for a New Jersey municipality. The ordinances addressed green purchasing for city products, buying fuel efficient automobiles, building green and sustainable municipal buildings and the utilization of incentives for developers who build green.

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At the Conference, Mayor Healy is expected to sign an Executive Order creating a Green Committee comprised of key city officials from various departments and agencies to oversee the implementation of the city's green ordinances.

The Conference will also feature a panel of regional experts including Senior Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee U.S. Representative **Frank Pallone, Jr.**, Regional Plan Association Executive Director **Tom Wright**, New Jersey Sustainable State Institute Director **Randall Solomon**, and U.S. Green Building Council of New Jersey Executive Director **Florence Block**.

"Informing the public and working together with both businesses and community members is vital to moving towards a safer and healthier future," continues **Mayor Healy**.

This event is **free** and **open to the public**. Registration for the Sustainable Cities Conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. Space for the Conference is limited and those wishing to attend are encouraged to please R.S.V.P. with Nancy McCarthy at GOGREEN@JCNJ.ORG or by calling 201-547-4943. Refreshments will be served before and after the Conference.

Jersey City has been ranked by Smart Growth America as the nation's second most sustainable city following New York City. The event is sponsored by the Liberty Science Center, PSE&G, and John & Wendy Neu.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///